

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A system comprising a wireless controller that binds one or more devices from a neighborhood group of devices to the controller, the controller having a processor that processes data and formats signals and a transceiver that transmits and receives signals, the controller in a binding procedure transmitting an address inquiry signal to an address (ADDR1) of a first device in the neighborhood, receiving back a response to the address inquiry signal from the first device, determining whether one or more additional responses to the address inquiry signal are received from one or more of the other devices in the neighborhood group, and sending a randomize address signal addressed to ADDR1 if one or more additional responses to the address inquiry signal is received.

2. The system as in Claim 1, wherein prior to the controller transmitting an address inquiry signal to address ADDR1 of the first device in the neighborhood, the controller in the binding process sends a transmit address request signal to the devices in the neighborhood group and uses a first address received from the devices in response to the address request signal as address ADDR1 of the first device in the neighborhood.

20 3. The system as in Claim 2, wherein where the controller sends a randomize address signal addressed to ADDR1 if one or more additional responses to the address inquiry signal is received, the controller subsequently repeats the a) sending of the transmit address request signal to the devices in the neighborhood

group, b) use of the first address received from the devices in response to the address request signal as address ADDR1 of the first device in the neighborhood, c) transmission of the address inquiry signal to address (ADDR1) of the first device in the neighborhood, d) receipt back of the response to the address inquiry signal from the first device, e) determination of whether one or more additional responses to the address inquiry signal are received from one or more of the other devices in the neighborhood, and f) sending of the randomize address signal addressed to ADDR1 if one or more additional responses to the address inquiry signal is received.

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4. The system as in Claim 3, wherein where the controller receives back the response to the address inquiry signal from the first device and no additional responses to the address inquiry signal, the controller in the binding process subsequently sends an identify request signal addressed to ADDR1 that instructs the first device to provide a sensory output that identifies itself to an operator of the controller.

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5. The system as in Claim 4, wherein following receipt of the output identification of the first device, the operator inputs one of a bind command and a skip command, the bind command causing the controller to bind the first device to a control group of devices controlled by the controller and the skip command causing the controller to leave the first device unbound.

6. The system as in Claim 5, wherein the binding of the first device to the

control group in response to the bind command comprises storing a unique address for the first device in memory.

7. The system as in Claim 6, wherein the binding of the first device to the

5 control group in response to the bind command further comprises the controller transmitting a signal addressed to the first device at ADDR1 instructing the first device to re-program its address from ADDR1 to the unique address.

8. The system as in Claim 7, wherein the devices are lamps.

9. A device that may be bound to a wireless controller, the device comprising a processor having an address and a transceiver over which signals are transmitted and received, the processor in a binding procedure programmed to a) transmit a signal comprising the address in response to receipt of an address inquiry signal, b) randomize its address in response to receipt of a randomize address signal, 15 c) transmit a responding signal in response to receipt of an address inquiry signal addressed to the address.

10. The device as in Claim 9, wherein the processor in the binding

20 procedure is further programmed to re-program the address upon receipt of a signal addressed to the address and comprising a new address.

11. The device as in Claim 10, wherein the device is a lamp.

12. A method of binding one or more devices from a neighborhood group into a control group that are controlled together, each device having an address, the method comprising the steps of

- 5 a) requesting the addresses of the devices in the neighborhood group;
- b) considering a first address received from the devices in response to the address request as an address (ADDR1) of a first device in the neighborhood group;
- c) querying the devices in the neighborhood group whether they have address ADDR1 of the first device in the neighborhood;
- 10 d) receiving a response to the query of step c from the first device;
- e) determining whether one or more additional responses to the query of step c are received from one or more of the other devices in the neighborhood group; and
- f) instructing all devices having address ADDR1 to randomize their addresses when one or more additional responses to the query of step c is determined to be
- 15 received in step e.

13. The method as in Claim 12, wherein steps a to f are repeated until it is determined in step e that no additional responses to the query of step c are received.

20 14. The method as in Claim 13, wherein, after it is determined in step e that no additional responses to the query of step c are received, the method further comprises the step of: g) instructing the first device to provide a sensory output that identifies the first device to an operator.

15. The method as in Claim 14, further comprising the steps of:
h) binding the first device as part of the control group;
i) removing the first device from further consideration in the binding

5 procedure; and

- j) repeating the method beginning with step a.

16. The method as in Claim 14, further comprising the steps of:
h) removing the first device from further consideration in the binding
procedure without binding the first device as part of the control group; and
i) repeating the method beginning with step a.

17. The method as in Claim 12, wherein the devices are lamps.